



**2025 Meeting of the Members of the
Global Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions Network
Summary
26 May 2025**

The 2025 meeting of the members of the [Global Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions Network](#) was held in person in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 26 May 2025. The meeting was convened by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA). The objective of the meeting was to present the 2024 accomplishments as highlighted in the [2024 Annual Report](#), share the tentative 2025–2028 workplan, and invite recommendations, in-kind and financial contributions, and collaboration proposals from members (see Annex I – Agenda). The meeting gathered 18 participants representing over 15 member organizations and observers, both in person and virtually (see Annex II – List of Participants).

1 and 2. Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Ivan Vera, Network Secretariat, UN DESA, acting as moderator, opened the meeting and welcomed all participants. He expressed gratitude to the Government of Denmark for hosting the event and acknowledged the value of meeting in person to foster collaboration and commitment. He emphasized that, now in its 6th year, the Network continues to provide a unique platform for integrated action on water and energy. He highlighted the urgency of scaling up solutions to meet the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda, and underscored the key role of members in driving impactful action at all levels. Participants briefly introduced themselves and their organizations, reaffirming their commitment to the goals of the Network.

3. 2024 Accomplishments: Ms. Isabel Raya, Network Secretariat, UN DESA, presented the 2024 accomplishments of the Network as outlined in the Annual Report, highlighting the progress made across the areas of capacity development, advocacy and outreach, and knowledge management. In terms of capacity development, she noted the successful organization of two in-person events: the Second Global Symposium on Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions held from 12 to 14 June in Madrid, Spain, hosted by Canal de Isabel II, which brought together over 320 participants from more than 20 countries to explore circular economy practices, digitalisation, and equitable governance of water-energy systems; and the Regional Workshop on the Synergistic Implementation of Sustainable Water and Energy Consumption and Production, held on 16 and 17 October in Antigua, Guatemala, in collaboration with ASAZGUA, which convened nearly 100 representatives from 16 countries to exchange experiences on agro-industrial sustainability and nature-based solutions.

Ms. Raya also highlighted a robust advocacy and outreach agenda throughout the year. The Network convened its 2024 virtual members' meeting on 21 February, followed by several high-level events, including a side event during the High-Level Political Forum on 11 July in New York, focused on sustainable and resilient water-energy solutions for poverty reduction, agriculture, and climate action; a technical session on women's empowerment and sustainable energy-water access at the SDG 7 Action Forum during UNGA Week on 25 September; a dialogue on sustainable agro-industry and clean fuels between Europe and Latin America, held

at the European Parliament in Brussels on 3 October; and a side event at COP29 on 15 November in Baku, Azerbaijan, addressing the role of integrated water-energy strategies in climate adaptation and resilience building.

In the area of knowledge management, the Global Knowledge Platform continued to grow, surpassing 150,000 cumulative visits and expanding its repository with 143 case studies, including 85 new contributions derived from technical publications provided by UNALA covering 12 Latin American countries. Since its launch, the Network has organized 38 global events and now counts 30 active member organizations representing over 70 countries. Ms. Raya concluded by inviting all members to continue contributing case studies, tools, and materials to strengthen the platform and support the strategic planning for the 2025–2028 cycle.

4. 2025–2028 Tentative Workplan: Mr. Iván Vera, Network Secretariat, UN DESA, outlined a four-year work plan designed to consolidate the Network’s leadership in promoting integrated water- and energy-based solutions and to demonstrate their contribution to a wider range of SDGs. Building on the current focus on SDGs 6 and 7, the plan formally expands the Network’s scope to address climate action (SDG 13) and terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity (SDG 15), while deepening links to health (SDG 3) and food-security/sustainable-agriculture objectives (SDG 2). Key outputs will include two global meetings and two flagship analytical reports, an intensified programme of regional capacity-building initiatives, sustained advocacy at major UN forums, continued enhancement of the Global Knowledge Platform, and the mobilisation of new multi-stakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments.

Under the heading of global events, the work plan envisages the Third Global Symposium on Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions in 2026 (location to be confirmed) and the Fourth Global Symposium in 2028, complemented by a calendar of capacity-building workshops beginning with the Copenhagen Workshop on Synergistic Water- and Energy-Solutions for Health and Climate Objectives (26 May 2025) and followed by additional regional workshops, hosted with member support, that will focus on decentralised water-energy systems for vulnerable communities and on technical topics such as wastewater-to-energy, desalination with renewables, green hydrogen, bioenergy and analytical modelling tools. Two Global Reports on Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions are scheduled: the first in 2025 and the second in 2028; each will examine status and trends, innovative technologies, policy and institutional arrangements, and data and analytical tools.

In the advocacy and outreach arena, the plan calls for Network side-events at the 2025 UN High-Level Political Forum (July, New York), the 2025 SDG 7 Action Forum during the UN General Assembly (September, New York) and COP 30 (November 2025, Belém, Brazil), with similar engagements envisaged each subsequent year. Publications will include a second special issue of the UN Sustainable Development Journal *Natural Resources Forum* in 2026 and a series of technical briefs on innovative water-energy systems such as floating solar PV, storage hydropower and ocean energy. A multilingual global communication strategy, featuring audiovisual and infographic tools, will underpin these advocacy efforts throughout the UN Decade of Action.

Finally, Mr. Vera stressed the intention to enrich the Global Knowledge Platform with new case studies, modelling resources and good-practice databases, while actively recruiting new members and forging additional partnerships that can generate technical expertise, in-kind support and financial contributions. Members were invited to review the draft work plan, propose regional hosting offers for the 2026 Symposium, and signal concrete contributions-

both in kind and financial- to ensure that the Network's agenda for 2025-2028 remains ambitious, inclusive and impact-oriented.

5. Discussion on Workplan and Support from Members: Mr. Ivan Vera invited Members to outline their concrete contributions to the 2025–2028 Workplan, encouraging both institutional and in-kind support. Below are the detailed commitments, as expressed during the meeting:

- TERI. Mr. Anshuman indicated that TERI would be open to hosting the Third Global Symposium in New Delhi in 2026, noting that Mumbai or Bengaluru could serve as alternative venues. He mentioned that TERI would cover local hosting costs, facilitate government engagement in India, and could organize at least two regional capacity-building workshops focused on decentralized water–energy systems. TERI would also be able to contribute to the Global Knowledge Platform through case studies and modeling tools from Asia and might support the drafting of technical briefs on topics such as green hydrogen, wastewater-to-energy, and just transition policies. He also expressed general interest in supporting advocacy efforts linked to major global events. Mr. Anshuman emphasized that involving national governments is crucial to ensuring the impact and legitimacy of these initiatives.
- SINTEF (Norway). Petter Støa noted SINTEF's interest in co-hosting a future Global Symposium in Oslo, potentially in 2026 or 2028, possibly with a side-event focused on reframing development financing in the context of evolving geopolitical challenges. SINTEF would also offer its Horizon Europe partnership projects as demonstration platforms for Network activities and contribute lessons related to digital tools for water–energy planning. Mr. Støa underlined that development-oriented outcomes must remain at the core of the Network's work—not only policy discussions. He added that Horizon Europe is an inclusive mechanism, allowing participation from countries beyond the EU, such as Canada and India.
- IIASA (Austria). Dr. Taher Kahil offered to host a residential training course at IIASA's Laxenburg campus for African planners, focused on nexus modeling tools. He added that IIASA would contribute to the 2025 Global Report, provide policy briefs and datasets, and participate in outreach efforts related to global advocacy events including HLPF, UNGA, and COP 30.
- ASAZGUA & UNALA (Latin America). Mr. Gustavo Paredes stated that ASAZGUA and UNALA would work to mobilize private-sector sponsorship and promote a follow-up high-level dialogue in the European Parliament. ASAZGUA would also contribute a database of 85 digitized case studies from Latin America and support outreach to prospective new members such as DATAGRO (Brazil) and Junta de Andalucía (Spain). UNALA confirmed continued in-kind support to strengthen Spanish–Latin American collaboration on clean cooking initiatives. Ms. Jacqueline Hazbun, Independent Cogeneration Association (ACI), also offered to organize a workshop or side-event of the Network during OLADE's 2025 Energy Week. Mr. Paredes additionally suggested that the European Parliament could potentially host a future Global Symposium in Brussels, building on the success of the 2024 session. While the possibility of formal membership is still under discussion, he noted there is openness to exploring closer collaboration.

- OLADE (Latin America & Caribbean). Ms. Gloria Alvarenga invited the Network to co-organize a side-event during OLADE Energy Week 2025 (29 September–2 October, Santiago, Chile), highlighting that the 2 October Ministerial Meeting would be the most relevant moment for high-level engagement. She noted that OLADE serves as the official regional statistics repository and expressed willingness to support the preparation of the Global Report through collaboration with the EU and other partners. OLADE also offered to facilitate engagement with private utilities via its Business Council. It was noted that the European Union will become a Permanent Observer of OLADE starting the day after the meeting, and that Belize and Bolivia will serve as Vice-Presidencies in the 2026 governing structure. The Board of Experts meeting, also part of Energy Week, will focus on setting the energy policy agenda for the region.
- Canal Isabel II (Spain). Mr. David Peral mentioned that Canal Isabel II is exploring the use of European technical cooperation funds to support clean cooking pilots in Latin America. He also offered to host a technical visit to Madrid focusing on non-revenue water reduction and digital metering. Canal Isabel II would continue to contribute to international forums and share training content on circular economy practices in water utilities.
- Iberdrola (Spain). Mr. Miguel Muñoz reiterated Iberdrola’s commitment to providing high-level speakers for international policy forums such as HLPF, UNGA, and COP, and signaled the company’s readiness to provide a modest financial contribution to the Network’s 2025 advocacy efforts, pending further bilateral discussion with the Secretariat.
- HPNET (Asia-Pacific). Ms. Dipti Vaghela expressed interest in collaborating with other members on case studies about women-centered hydro initiatives in small island developing states and suggested that HPNET could also draft a technical note on biomass gasification. She noted that if a future Global Symposium takes place in India, HPNET would be happy to contribute by organizing a field visit to micro-hydro sites in the northeast. She also offered general support for participating in or contributing to other Network activities, even if not hosted in Asia.
- SOLshare (Bangladesh). Mr. Sebastian Groh offered to write an article on lead-acid battery pollution and health for the 2026 special issue of the Natural Resources Forum. He also expressed interest in collaborating on a webinar showcasing pay-as-you-go solar mini-grid models. Mr. Groh referenced a recent article in *The Lancet* which documented the severe health and environmental risks of battery contamination, calling submerged battery use “a disaster.” He also noted that SOLshare is already participating in a Horizon Europe project and would be open to integrating its learnings into the Network.
- OffGridBox (The Netherlands). Mr. Bas Berends confirmed that OffGridBox has formally applied to join the Network. He described the company’s modular, container-based systems that deliver clean water and solar electricity, which are currently being piloted in several countries through Horizon Europe demonstration projects. Mr. Berends expressed interest in contributing to future regional capacity-building activities, particularly by showcasing these solutions in the context of a planned 2025 workshop in Africa. While specific details of that workshop are yet to be confirmed, he offered to make OffGridBox installations available as field examples and to support knowledge exchange on decentralized energy and water systems in rural and underserved areas.
- Strathmore University (Kenya). Ms. Irene Ngunjiri proposed using Strathmore’s Centre

of Excellence as a regional training hub for Eastern Africa and collaborating on country-specific chapters (especially Kenya) for the Global Report. She also mentioned that the university houses a regional repository of case studies and offered to host a future conference and exhibition on water and energy solutions in Kenya, with potential to scale to other countries.

Mr. Vera concluded the session by thanking all members for their contributions and reiterating that the Secretariat will follow up bilaterally to incorporate these commitments into the implementation calendar for 2025–2028.

6. Any Other Business and Closing

To conclude the session, Mr. Ivan Vera thanked all members for their active engagement and meaningful contributions throughout the meeting. He emphasized that the technical, institutional, and financial commitments made reflect the Network’s increasing maturity and will be instrumental in advancing the 2025–2028 Work Plan. Mr. Vera noted that the Secretariat will follow up bilaterally to incorporate the proposals into the implementation calendar and ensure continued collaboration. No additional business was raised by participants. The meeting was formally closed with a renewed invitation to all members to maintain momentum and reconvene at upcoming Network events, including the High-Level Political Forum and future global symposia.

**2025 Annual Meeting of the Members of the
Global Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions Network**

**26 May 2025
10:00 – 11:15 AM (Copenhagen time)**

DRAFT AGENDA

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Introductions**
- 3. 2024 Annual Report**
- 4. 2025 - 2028 Tentative Workplan**
- 5. Discussion of Workplan and Support from Members**
Members are invited to indicate future contributions to the Network
- 6. Any Other Business (AOB)**
- 7. Closing**

Annex II – List of Participants

2025 Meeting of the Members of the Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions Network

26 May 2025

In-Person Participants

- Samson Tsegaye, Solar Energy Foundation, Ethiopia
- Irene Ngunjiri, Strathmore University, Kenya
- Anshuman, TERI, India
- Sebastian Groh, SOLshare, Bangladesh
- Gloria Alvarenga, OLADE, Latin America and the Caribbean
- Gustavo Paredes, ASAZGUA, Guatemala
- Dipti Vaghela, HPNET, Asia-Pacific
- Taher Kahil, IIASA, Austria
- Petter Støa, SINTEF, Norway
- Ivan Vera, UN DESA
- Nadine Salame, UN DESA
- Isabel Raya, UN DESA

Virtual Participants

- David Peral, Canal Isabel II, Spain
- Miguel Muñoz, Iberdrola, Spain
- Andrea Hernández, Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, Spain

Observers

- Bas Berends, OffGridBox, The Netherlands
- Alice Jipius, Tonibung, Malaysia
- Jacqueline Hazbun, Independent Cogeneration Association (ACI), Guatemala